Statement by H.E. M. Isaac Murargy, Representative of The People's Republic of Mozambique on the Question related to "Right of Peoples to self-determination".

Mr. Chairman,

We are gathered at this important Commission with the noble task of finding ways and means to remove the obstacles impeding the realization of the more legitimate aspireations of peoples to peace and security. We are fighting in order that international relations, justice, equality, progress prevail.

The right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation is a fundamental principle, embodied in the United Nations Charter, of the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of the Non-aligned countries. The People's Republic of Mozambique has always, remained bound by these principles, because the guarantee of the right to self-determination, freedom and independence is the sine qua non for the maintenance of international peace and security.

For the People's Republic of Mozambique, international peace and security are, more than ever before, a fundamental principle and aspiration of the whole of mankind and the "raison d'être" of the United Nations.

By peace, we mean the firm refusal to humiliation, domination and exploitation; respect of human personality and dignity.

Last week, this Commission considered the right to development and many of the distinguished delegates stressed this right as a profoundly human right which goes beyond mere individual rights in that it encompasses the nation as a whole. It embodies various political, economic, legal, social and cultural factors which contribute to the full realization of the well being of peoples.

For my delegation, the implementation of the aims which move our countries in defining the content and scope of the right to development will depend upon the firm willingness, the efforts deployed by the international community to overcome the barriers which divide us. One of the great barriers is the [redacted] and the implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, the [redacted] of racism, apartheid and zionism and other factors threatening international peace and security.

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History has shown us that there is a close link, not only between the right to self-determination and international peace and security, but also between those two elements and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Unless the right of peoples to self-determination is respected there can be no peace. And without peace there is no guarantee that human rights can be respected.

The right to self-det includes not only the right to national independence but also the freedom of peoples to choose their own system and method of development in all spheres.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community is witnessing flagrant violations of the fundamental principles of self-determination of peoples in many parts of the world and in various forms due to the actions of colonialist, neo-colonialist racist and zionist regimes which are continuing to inforce their domination, occupation, humiliation and exploitation.

In southern Africa, the racist regime of Pretoria represents the last bastion of colonialism which, by its policy of apartheid and bantustanization, is denying the majority of the South African people its right and fundamental freedoms. The South African regarded as a foreigner in his own country is subjected to the most humiliating opression, repression and humiliating policy and is reduced to the status of a supplier of cheap manpower working for the transnational corporations established in South Africa.

In spite of the condemnation by the international community, the South Africa regime stands on its attempts to preserve the backward and inhuman system of apartheid.

Despite all the condemnations by the international community, South Africa continues its illegal occupation of the territory of Namibia, whose population is thereby prevented from freely determining its political and economic future. At the same time, South Africa, intensifying its exploitation and plunder of the natural resources of that territory and endeavouring to impose a puppet government on the Namibian people.

Moved by the spirit to preserve peace and security in our region, the People's Re ublic of Mozambique and other frontline States have committed themselves to participate in the diplomatic exercise that led to the formulation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, adopted by the Security Council in its resolution 435. In the course of this whole process, SWAPO and the frontline States made concessions in the name of peace and in order to accelerate the process of the independence of Namibia.

However, almost six years have passed, and Namibia still remains occupied illegally. This Commission should take a stand in calling for the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 which constitutes the legal basis for the independence of Namibia. This Commission should also reiterate the condemnation of the imperialist manoeuvers aimed at delaying independence by trying to establish a linkage to elements which are strange to the process and to the spirit of the United Nations plan for Namibia. Is this the case of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola?

Mr. Chairman,

It is with deep concern that we notice that beyond our region, another people still remain under colonial domination which leads to division among the African people. We are talking about the Sahara people, whose right to self-determination and independence is denied.

The refusal on the part of Morocco to enter into negotiations with the Polisario Front, in conformity with the pertinent resolution 104 adopted by the 19th Summit of the Organization of African Unity, means that there will be no cease-fire and therefore a referendum will not take place as called by the OAU and the United Nations.

We would at this stage reiterate the appeal made by my delegation during the last United Nations General Assembly to the Government of Morocco in the name of peace in the Maghreb and the strenghtening of the African Unity to comply with the spirit and the letter of the OAU resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

The question of East Timor remains unresolved - the people of that territory continue to see their sacred right to self-determination and independence denied by the occupying power, the Republic of Indonesia.

There is no better evidence of the refusal and opposition of the people of East Timor to Indonesia's occupation than their continuing heroic resistance.

The situation in East Timor has reached such a tragic dimension that it prompted more than 100 members of the American Congress to issue a letter to President Reagan, urging him to consider the question of East Timor. Both the "New Yokr Times" of December 11, 1983, and "The Christian Science Monitor" of December 21, 1983 gave considerable space for the coverage of U.S. Congressi concern on the tragedy of East Timor.

The Heads of State of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique an St. Tomé, meeting in Bissau, considered at length the question of East Timor. They reaffirmed in unequivocal terms their support to the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and the FRETILIN and called upon the Government of Indonesia to cease its aggression and occupation of East Timor. The Heads of States also called upon Portugal, the administering power of the territory, to live up to its historical, moral and legal responsibilities, and to cooperate with FRETILIN in the search for a solution to the problem of East Timor.

We sincerely hope that the deferment of the East Timor question in the last General Assembly will create the necessary climate conducive to the re-establishment of the cease-fire and dialogue and that will allow the Secretar General to sucessfully carry out its mandate according to resolution 32/30.

We shall spare no efforts in order that the people of East Timor under the leadership of the FRETILIN its legitimate representative, should exercise fully its right to self-determination and indepenlence.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is also concerned by the developments in the Middle East The Zionist regime of Israel is the only obstacle to peace and security in that

region, where it is preventing the Palestinian people of the occupied territories from exercising their fundamental rights. The only solution for the Middle East problem is the recognition of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of its own state.

In our opinion, any attempt to preserve zionism means marching against the fundamental interest of Jews and Arabs. There will only perpetuate the State of war in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to self-determination is not confied only to granting political independence to peoples under colonial domination. It means also the right of peoples to dispose of its natural resources and of determinating freely its own way of development.

In souther Africa, by attempting to destabilize neighbouring countries, and recruiting mercenaries to attack independent states, South Africa was violating fundamental principles of international law and denying the peoples of the region their right to development.

The South African regime also attempts to weaken the already fragile economy of its neighbours aimed at keeping them in a state of economic dependence and to preventing them from pursuing jointly their economic development withint the framework of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). The SADCC reflects the determined aspirations of our peoples to exercise our legitimate right to development.

It is within this context that South Africa's constant attacks against Angola, Lesotho, and Mozambique were taking place. In recent years, Mozambique has been subject to attacks, acts of sabotage and attempts at destabalization by armed bandits recruited, trained, financed, equiped and transported by South Africa. The Pretoria regime was acting in that manner because Mozambique decided to put an end to its economic dependence and establish within the region a new society based on equality and free from exploitation and from discrimination. Mr. Chairman, nation based on racism, race discrimination

The elimination of racism, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and zionism is an historical imperative without which co-operation among peoples of the

world could not be developed. These are the problems which the Commission has to give priority to. We cannot talk about human rights while these problems still remain unsolved. The faith & confidence of Mozambique believes in the U N system and we strongly ~~associated~~ to this Organization and will continue to do so. The search, to the political, economic, social and security problems affecting humanity all over the world, particularly in the Southern Africa in order that the peace, progress and ~~[illegible]~~ cooperation can prevail in our region we urge to all of us to transform the ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter as a reality

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THANK YOU